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Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps' Walla Walla District facilities not affected by earthquake

Walla Walla, Wash., – The earthquake that hit the west side of the Cascade mountains this morning hasn't affected dams or facilities operated by the Walla Walla District, according to the region's top Army Corps of Engineers official.

"Our immediate concern was for the safety of people and their property in the earthquake zone as well as in our geographic area of operations. We were concerned for the public and for our Corps counterparts who were much closer to the affected areas," said Lieutenant Colonel Rich Wagenaar, commander and district engineer for the Walla Walla District. "We immediately checked out the Walla Walla District's facilities in Oregon, Washington and Idaho after we got word of the earthquake. Our Corps of Engineers emergency management officials used the processes in our emergency preparedness contingency plans, but as of now, the District has not activated its Emergency Operations Center."

Walla Walla District facilities include:

Oregon -- McNary Lock and Dam, on the Columbia River, near Umatilla, Ore.;

Washington -- Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, near the Tri-Cities; Lower Monumental Lock and Dam near Kahlotus; Little Goose Lock and Dam near Starbuck; and, Lower Granite Lock and Dam, near Pomeroy; all located on the Snake River. District facilities also include Bennington Lake and the Mill Creek Diversion near Walla Walla.

Idaho -- Flood protection levee system at Lewiston; Dworshak Dam and Reservoir on the North Fork of the Clearwater River at Orofino; and, Lucky Peak Dam and Reservoir on the Boise River near Boise.

"We will continue to monitor our facilities, as well as stand ready to support other Corps organizations in any way we might be called upon to do," added Wagenaar.

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